

THE TECUMSEH HERALD

▼ Virtual programs working well at TDL • 3A



IN THE NEWS



Hidden Lake Gardens makes offer to send your postcard

Hidden Lake Gardens' gift shop is currently closed, but the staff is offering a postcard service to brighten someone's day. A postcard may be purchased from the gardens through email or an online form, and HLG staff will write the purchaser's message, address it to the recipient, and mail it for the cost of \$2 per postcard. To purchase a postcard email howard279@msu.edu or visit the Hidden Lake Gardens Facebook page for a post with a link to the postcard purchasing form.

Millions of free masks available through MDHHS program

MI Mask Aid, an initiative of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Community Service Commission, is giving free face masks to Michiganders to protect themselves and their communities from COVID-19. The local distribution site is the Lenawee County Health Department, 1040 S. Winter St., Suite 2328, Adrian. The program is particularly focused on giving masks to low-income residents, seniors, high-risk families, children returning to school in person, and people living in homeless shelters. Residents are advised to call 264.5226 to understand the pick-up process and ensure they still have masks available.

Why are there two Look Back pages in this week's Herald?

In last week's edition of the Tecumseh Herald, the 2020 Year in Review knocked out space for the weekly 50-year Look Back page, as well as the weekly crossword puzzle. Both are included in today's paper.

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Ice Sculpture Festival set for January 16-17

By JACKIE KOCH

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Neither snow nor cold nor a coronavirus pandemic will prevent the 12th Annual Ice Festival from taking place in downtown Tecumseh – the snow and cold are preferable, but the pandemic could be done without. Regardless, on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 16 and 17, ice sculptures will line the city's downtown sidewalks and professional ice

carvers will show off their prowess during demonstrations and a dueling carver competition, bringing a bit of normalcy to the community in the form of a winter celebration.

Rhonda Nowak, the city's marketing coordinator, has been working to prepare the details for this year's event. "We have 37 sculptures this year, which is awesome," she said. Although the two lead carvers for Ice Creations of Napoleon, Ohio, were injured in automobile

accidents this year, they have collaborated with their network of ice sculptors to ensure that they can once again share the handiwork of their ice designs, which will be displayed in front of participating businesses.

The carving demonstrations will take place throughout Saturday and the dueling carver competitions will be held Saturday afternoon. "We're excited for them that they're able to keep going on," Nowak said. Ice Creations also supplies

the sand sculptures for the city's Sand in Tecumseh event in the summer, which this year was a self-guided sand sculpture walking tour from mid-August through Labor Day.

A new feature for the Ice Sculpture Festival this year will be six life-sized balloon sculptures, which will be among the ice sculptures. Typically a stilt-walking balloon artist wanders through

SEE FESTIVAL 3A



John Goodell, joined by Kim Tucker-Gray, expresses his enthusiasm for the Hive Project.

Momentum grows for Hive Project in Macon

By JACKIE KOCH

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A 215-acre parcel at 8759 Clinton Macon Rd. in Macon Township has been many things, including farmland once owned by American industrialist Henry Ford and a residential home for boys in trouble, but the former Boysville property that has been mostly vacant since 2014 is continuing to move toward a fresh vision, thanks to Dexter-area visionaries John Goodell and Kim Tucker-Gray. Called "The Hive Project," the new venture planned will be a campus of art and sustainability, beginning with a co-working space now ready for occupants.

Goodell and Tucker-Gray first toured the property in fall 2019 and imagined their vision unfolding in the buildings there, a vision

they've been working on for the past 10 years. According to Goodell, The Hive Project plans to empower artists, educators, and entrepreneurs of all ages, united by a common desire to share, teach and compassionately serve. The goal is to bring together thousands of people year-round who share a passion for education in the performing, visual, creative and culinary arts.

Other goals include creating emotionally engaging and intellectually relevant artistic presentations, delivered through multiple mediums and live performances, and having the property manage its own waste water treatment plant and water supply system. The long-term vision includes creating more than half of The Hive's

SEE HIVE PROJECT 5A

Fall sports may conclude by end of January

By JEFF STEERS

Special Writer

Fall sports for Clinton and Tecumseh may be concluded by the end of January if Michigan High School Athletic Association guidelines are upheld – due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The concluding rounds of postseason tournaments in football, girls volleyball and girls swimming and diving will be completed during January, as the MHSAA continues to follow all emergency orders from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Football teams were allowed for two days of outdoor, non-contact conditioning and drills, wearing helmets and shoulder pads with physical distancing, beginning December 28.

Teams began the first round of testing December 30 as part of an MDHHS rapid testing program. Schools will test players, coaches and other team personnel, with full-contact practice then allowed after a first round of negative results.

The testing program will utilize antigen tests that produce results within 15 minutes.

For football, 11-player regional finals will be played Saturday, Jan. 9. Clinton (8-1) is scheduled to play in the Division 6 regional final against

Warren Michigan Collegiate (9-0) at 1 p.m.

The 11-player semifinals will be played Saturday, Jan. 16, and 11-player finals will be played January 22-23.

The current epidemic order – which paused activity beginning Nov. 18 – is set to expire Jan. 15, and if restrictions on non-contact sports are lifted then volleyball and swimming and diving could practice and compete at that time outside of the required testing program. If the order continues, volleyball and swimming and diving could begin practice, but those teams and individuals will have to follow all requirements of the rapid testing pilot program.

Tecumseh has a number of swimmers in the Division 3 beginning finals.

Volleyball will restart with quarterfinals, and girls swimming and diving has advanced to its finals. The championship events in both sports would be completed no later than Jan. 30.

Dates are expected to be announced by the MHSAA this month. If the MDHHS pause ends, indoor practices for winter sports may begin again Jan. 16, with first competitions Jan. 22 for basketball, bowling, ice hockey and swimming and diving; and Jan. 25 for competitive cheer, gymnastics and wrestling.

Grey Fox, Tecumseh Coins move into new digs

By MARY KAY MCPARTLIN

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After a week of moving from their temporary home to the new Grey Fox Floral building at 125 S. Evans St., Jan and Gary Fox opened on Monday, Jan. 4. Staff, family and friends helped move the display units and washed windows and the glass shelving.

Jan was hoping to have it done in a weekend, but the amount of what needed to move from the temporary across the street required more time. "It's still going to be a

work in progress," she said.

While thankful for the temporary location, there were many challenges for the business, including a smaller selection of product. "In our temporary location it was warm and cramped for space," said Jan. "Now I have a walk-in cooler where all the flowers fit in comfortably. It's been a long haul. We are excited to finally be here. It's like starting a new job because we don't know where everything is yet."

In addition to flower deliveries this week, Jan is also expecting a plant delivery, and

Gary has been able to expand the coins he has available in his portion of the business. According to Jan, 21 vendors have returned to the building with their items, including two original vendors who waited to return to the new location.

"I'm excited about that," she said.

The journey from the devastating fire on April 8, 2019, to reopening in a new building has been marked by delays of all kinds. Insurance issues kept the fire damaged shell up much

SEE GREY FOX 5A



Friends help Grey Fox move to the new store on December 28.

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OPINION



Gary and Jan Fox inside the new Grey Fox Floral and Tecumseh Coins building.

GREY FOX FROM 1A

New building opens for business

longer than Jan and Gary wanted, although they made sure the building was down before the 2019 Appleumkin Festival.

Then just when construction was ready to begin, COVID-19 shut down the state for a month. "We followed the orders even though we could have opened a month earlier," Jan said.

Although the new building in the original location is open for retail business, there is still much to accomplish. Jan and Gary continue to work with the insurance company for reimbursement of expenses from their temporary location including loss of income.

Construction continues in-

side the building. "Now we are working on the apartments upstairs," said Jan.

The two apartments above the retail space are each 1,200 square feet each with two bedrooms and separate decks. Jan and Gary hope to have the apartments ready for tenants in two months.

Delays in available materials due to the pandemic have slowed down the process. "They are short in the factories and behind with shipping," Jan said.

Cabinetry and appliances are on the to-do list for the apartments. The Foxes continue their loyalty to Tecumseh companies by keeping as much of the work

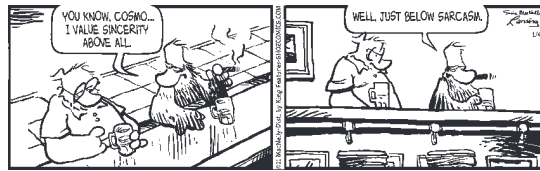
local as they can.

"They have supported me and now it's my turn to support them," said Jan.

The ribbon cutting for Grey Fox Floral is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 15, with the location's grand reopening festivities planned for January 16 and 17 in conjunction with the Tecumseh Ice Sculpture Festival.

For those curious to see the new building before the grand reopening, Grey Fox Floral is open regular hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. For more information visit the website at greyfoxfloral.com or call 423-3735.

shoe



State health dept. setting vaccination schedule

By JACKIE KOCH
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After frontline health care workers at ProMedica's Charles and Virginia Hickman Hospital became the first in the county to receive the new COVID-19 vaccine on December 28, the process of vaccinating people in Lenawee County communities began, with the Lenawee County Health Department disseminating information as it became known in order to educate the public. The first Michigan citizens to be vaccinated have been priority hospital and health care workers, followed by staff and residents of long-term care facilities.

Martha Hall, health officer at the Lenawee County Health Department, said the vaccine will initially be available in limited quantities, and the health department will focus on vaccinating EMS, health department staff who will be vaccinating the community, and frontline healthcare workers not affiliated with ProMedica or a larger organization.

The staff and residents of

long-term care facilities will be vaccinated through a federal partnership with CVS and Walgreens pharmacies. As more vaccine becomes available, the health department will continue to vaccinate the community based on the prioritization guidance from MDHHS. The health department will notify the community through media releases, social media posts and updates to the health department website when the vaccine is available to the various priority groups. Hall said the county provides regular email updates regarding COVID-19, and individuals who would like to receive the updates may email a request to kim.murphy@lenawee.mi.us.

More information regarding the COVID vaccine can be found at lenawee.mi.us/983/COVID-19--Vaccine, and those with questions regarding whether they should receive the vaccine when it is available should consult with their healthcare provider, according to Hall.

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief

deputy for health with the MDHHS, expressed her confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine. "The significant impact of COVID-19 has led to unprecedented, worldwide collaboration among scientists, medical doctors, health and government officials, and manufacturers," Khaldun said. "The arrival of this vaccine in Michigan signals that the end of this pandemic is near. However, it will take several months before we are able to have enough vaccine to widely distribute it to the general population. Until then, and even for individuals who receive the vaccine, we should all be doing our part to slow the spread of this virus by wearing masks, avoiding large gatherings, and washing hands."

Credible resources on vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine, with answers based on medical science, include Ivaccinate.org, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the CDC. A comprehensive set of questions and answers about COVID-19 can be found at Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine.

HIVE PROJECT FROM 1A

Companies moving into 'Swarm' building at former Boysville site

energy consumption through sustainable infrastructure across the campus.

When The Herald first reported on The Hive Project in August 2020, the partners were under contract to purchase the property. That purchase has not yet been completed, but the plan is still underway. "We are working closely with the sellers during these strange times as we continue to navigate fundraising amidst this global pandemic," Goodell said. "We have negotiated an extended sales contract as we continue to work with major donors. Alongside our substantial financial progress, we have continued to embrace the overwhelming community support for our vision, while taking occupancy of one of the main buildings on campus — we call

it The Swarm."

The Swarm is the only building that sits on the south side of Clinton Macon Road. Approximately 19,000 square feet, it now houses a fully-furnished collaborative co-working space for nonprofits, tech startups, and individuals looking for a workspace. It includes a central reception area, large modular conference spaces adjoined by a small commercial kitchen, private offices, smaller conference and board rooms, modular work pods, a mailroom, a separate kitchen and snack room, flexible breakout spaces and a small library. The complex is networked with high-speed internet and there are lockers and showers for those with longer commutes or who desire such amenities.

Goodell said two companies

are moving into The Swarm and they have tours scheduled over the next two weeks with additional prospective tenant partners. "The space has great energy and is already set up for socially-distanced productivity with blazing fast wifi, easy access and tons of free parking," he said.

The Hive Project includes a 25-year plan to build a sustainable organization that thrives on collaboration by serving the community. The Phase One goal to launch the Honeycomb Academy, a summer camp in the former 1957-era high school for hundreds of young artists from around the world, will come next after the project's organizers have reached their fundraising goal to close on the property. The building will include common space, a

Fab Lab, creative carrels and a computer lab.

Funds raised will also rehabilitate and renovate three buildings on north campus, including the dining hall and attached culinary school, which will be named Royal Jelly Hall and will feature a full service, 13,000-square-foot commercial kitchen with cafeteria service line, dining room, culinary arts kitchen and classroom. Royal Jelly Hall will also feature a culinary incubator for food-based businesses just getting off the ground.

Additional renovations planned include the historic gymnasium on the northeast portion of campus that will feature a modular theater and performance space with flexible seating for up to 350 people year-round, with hopes that

the building will be utilized by the community for public meetings, workshops and other activities.

Despite delays related to the pandemic, Goodell said The Hive's planners are not deterred. "We are optimists by nature. We are also realists and we know what it takes to build something sustainable: small steps and contributions from a lot of people that eventually snowball into something larger than any one person," he said. "Our original plan was to launch Honeycomb Academy next summer. The pandemic has slowed us down, but it hasn't even put a small dent in our passion for making our Hive dream a reality."

As they worked with major donors and other interested parties, they shifted priorities to

demonstrate that through partnerships, The Hive Project can be financially sustainable right away. "By focusing on using space that's already habitable, we welcome tenant partners into The Swarm this month and next as one way to re-energize this amazing campus, and to demonstrate that our model is incredibly diversified and involves many channels that all feed the same Hive," said Goodell. "Several people have reached out to us on social networks and even stopped by in person to say how awesome it is to see life back on this campus as they drive by."

For more information, visit thehiveproject.org or find The Hive Project on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. To schedule a tour, email swarm@thehiveproject.org.

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